Student-led research and scholarship deserves a global audience
Digital Commons™ connects your scholars and their achievements to the world, while also building your institution's global profile and reputation.

The way students and institutions converse and create engagement with their audiences, peers and stakeholders is changing. Such impact has the potential to reach far beyond the institution when driven by next-generation repository technology.

Digital Commons is at the heart of driving this transformation by making the full spectrum of your institution's scholarship - including your students' work - more discoverable.
Digital Commons: moving the academic conversation forward

Since their inception, institutional repositories (IRs) have been used by scholars to share new knowledge and open new conversations. Digital Commons represents the next major development in the IR space, enabling scholars to participate in those conversations as never before and equipping institutions by giving students a more effective and collaborative platform to showcase their work.

In addition to showcasing the originality and academic enterprise of your students, Digital Commons also ups your academic game by enabling the creation of a dynamic and constantly updatable profile, showing prospective students and their families the high standard they can expect to experience at your institution.

Help undergraduates get involved in key global conversations in their fields of study

As colleges and universities are becoming more focused on optimizing the student experience, opportunities to help undergraduates build their profile in areas of specialization are increasing in importance. Digital Commons can play a key role in helping your institution achieve this, enabling students to publicly share their work with new audiences and take part in key academic conversations worldwide.

Adding value to your online presence with every click

Over 500 institutions use Digital Commons to share, publish and track the impact of the full spectrum of a university’s work. Students publishing their work through Digital Commons have presented at conferences, been published in peer-reviewed academic journals, and have even secured patents.

The unlimited potential of Digital Commons reinforces every institution’s stated aim of promoting learning and scholarship. It means that:

- Students can experience pride in their first publication
- Students can connect and network internationally with other scholars
- Live links make their findings public to a global audience
A case in point: Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU)

To analyze how Digital Commons is transforming student-led research we talked to three key figures from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU): Phillip Fitzsimmons MLIS (Reference & Digitization Librarian, Assistant Professor), Jeremy Evert (Assistant Professor in Computer Science and Engineering Technology) and Hector Lucas (Communication Arts Student), about how SWOSU helps students to make their projects visible to the world.

SWOSU is a mid-sized university with approximately 5,000 students who are pursuing baccalaureate and master’s degrees in a variety of areas including arts and sciences, education, psychology, business, computer science, engineering and pharmaceutical sciences, as well as several applied degrees.

Since the beginning of 2016, Phillip Fitzsimmons, aided by a small but perfectly informed team of one technician and two student employees, has successfully uploaded 3,300 pieces of student-led work and has had 73,500 downloads of materials. The team has also used the Digital Commons platform to host three SWOSU open access journals and archive faculty research.
Enabling academic collaboration

Increasing awareness of, and engagement with, an institution’s scholarly output are key drivers in raising SWOSU’s global profile and attracting future students as well as funding for programs at the university.

As many institutions are discovering, academic librarians and faculty are reinventing their roles as conduits for the promotion of learning and scholarship through collaborating with and empowering new scholars. This helps to support students and their work in the following ways:

• Increasing student academic confidence
• Providing access to and distribution of student research
• Introducing scholarly communication theories and practices to students
• Promoting programs as well as students
• Contributing to student engagement and retention

The librarian’s perspective for administrators

“A university library can be a vital partner in assisting students in faculty with their academic and professional goals. It is useful for administrators to recognize that the projects you’re already doing include student-led research and student-centric publishing.”

Phillip Fitzsimmons, MLIS, Reference & Digitization Librarian, Assistant Professor
Give your institution the visibility it deserves

Digital Commons is engineered for discovery, enabling connection with a global audience of readers and researchers. It gives students valuable exposure, while monthly readership reports reveal exactly what impact their work is having around the world. Faculty mentors and other stakeholders can also track impact to demonstrate the success of their departments.

“International visibility means our students are seen and heard and that means they’re participating in the great conversations of their respective disciplines. Being part of the network means that all of us who participate are stronger because public interest in our various collections leads to more traffic to all other collections in the network.”

Phillip Fitzsimmons

The professor’s perspective

“I really do view the ability to go in and use Digital Commons to publish their work... as a way to enable our students to transition their homework and some of the projects they do in the classes into lines on their resume that they can show off to the rest of the world.”

Jeremy Evert, Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Engineering Technology
Monitor who’s looking at your institution by accessing the power of impact metrics

The search engine-optimized capability of Digital Commons ensures that it delivers more reach, more readership and more influence for your institution's scholarship via leading search engines such as Google and Google Scholar. The advanced metrics dashboard visualizes readership analytics in real time in a pictorial world map, enabling you to see who is accessing your institution’s output with pinpoint accuracy.

These dashboards increase stakeholder confidence, promote programs and contribute to student engagement and retention. From honors thesis to student-edited publications, field work and the arts, students do their best work when they know each link will be shared with an audience that could include potential employers.

“When students attend job interviews, the things they talk about are the permanent links. They show these to their potential employers and say, “Listen, I’ve been working at this a long time … this is who I am.”

Jeremy Evert
A student’s perspective

“Without the resources here, we wouldn’t have been able to make the videos that we did. After completing the videos, we discussed publishing them. Phil did a fantastic job of uploading the videos onto Digital Commons, another incredible resource of the library I had been previously unaware of.

“Seeing that there are people actually watching these videos shows that there is a benefit to this information being documented and shared, and that there are people out there who will read the content I have created. Ultimately, it has caused me to realize that this is the career path that I want to pursue.”

Hector Lucas, student in Communication Arts
Creating a more compelling case for supporting faculty grants

A student’s research becomes a permanent contribution to the conversation of the scholar’s or artist’s field. And that work can be seen by anyone with a computer and the internet.

From a faculty and institution perspective, student-led research and student-centric publishing:

- Contributes to faculty research and grant proposals
- Allows networking with other researchers
- Motivates other researchers to join the process
- Integrates with a campus’s strategic plan

“From a faculty perspective, when I write grants, I’m asking people to take a bet on myself and the work of my students. When I’ve got publications with permanent links that I can point to and say - I’ve had money in the past, I’ve used that money to do this research, I’ve gotten these publications so, grant reviewers - take notice.”

Jeremy Evert

Be part of academia’s big conversations with Digital Commons

Digital Commons has a thriving, close-knit community of over 500 institutions worldwide, which is helping to shape the future of undergraduate student-led research and scholarship. Join us and join the big conversation. Let’s shape the future of academic communication and collaboration, together.

- 2.4 million works
- >4.9M Total submissions
- 530 institutions
- >735M Total downloads
Digital Commons™

The next generation of institutional repositories has arrived. For more information on how you can transform the visibility of your institution, visit www.elsevier.com/solutions/digital-commons.

If you would be interested in a virtual tour of the Digital Commons platform, request a consultation.